

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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15

ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 HEW-06 EB-07 COME-00 /029 W

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R 240847Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1880

UNCLAS TOKYO 10102

DEPT PASS TO FDA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TBIO, JA

SUBJECT: USE OF URETHANE IN ANALGESIC INJECTIONS

1. ACCORDING TO VERNACULAR PRESS, MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE (MHW) WILL ASK FOR OPINIONS OF CANCER EXPERTS AND PHARMACOLOGISTS JULY 24 ON FINDINGS OF OSAKA UNIVERSITY SCIENTIST NOMURA TO EFFECT THAT URETHANE CONTAINED IN ANALGESIC (PYRABITAL) INJECTIONS HAS CARCINOGENIC POTENTIAL. MHW, WHICH INDIRECTLY OBTAINED NOMURA'S PAPERS JULY 17, CONSIDER HIS FINDINGS TRUSTWORTHY IN VIEW OF THOROUGHNESS WITH WHICH HE HAD CONDUCTED ANIMAL TESTS.

2. NOMURA REPORTEDLY GAVE HYPODERMIC INJECTIONS OF URETHANE TO APPROX FORTY THOUSAND MICE IN DIFFERENT DOSES. AS A RESULT, ALL MICE HAD "TUMORS" (NOMURA DID NOT USE TERM MALIGNANT NEOPLASM OR CANCER IN HIS PAPERS) IN THE LUNG, LIVER AND OTHER PARTS THROUGH DOSAGE OF TEN MILLIGRAMS OF URETHANE PER ONE KILOGRAM OF BODY WEIGHT.

3. URETHANE IS CURRENTLY USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR PYRABITAL INJECTIONS TO FACILITATE ITS DISSOLUTION IN INJECTION LIQUID. DURING PERIOD FROM 1955 TO 1965, MHW LICENSED MANUFACTURE OF ABOUT TWO HUNDRED FORMULATIONS OF PYRABITAL INJECTIONS. SINCE THEN, JAPANESE DRUG MANUFACTURERS HAVE REFRAINED FROM PRODUCTION OF THIS TYPE OF DRUG AND AT PRESENT ABOUT TEN FORMULATIONS ARE BEING USED BY PHYSICIANS. ANNUAL OUTPUT OF PYRABITAL INJECTIONS IN JAPAN IS ESTIMATED AT ONE HUNDRED MILLION YEN (APPROX 350,000 DOLLARS).

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4. AFTER CONSULTING EXPERTS, MHW WILL REFER THE MATTER TO  
CENTRAL PHARMACEUTICAL COUNCIL TO DECIDE WHETHER USE OF THE  
DRUG SHOULD BE PROHIBITED.  
SHOESMITH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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